

Beaumont Public Library Computer Usage Policies

Internet access is intended for research, educational, and recreational purposes. Parents and legal guardians, and not the library staff, are responsible for monitoring their children's use of the Internet and the information accessed by minors. The City of Beaumont has given library staff authority and responsibility to insure the equitable, responsible and efficient use of the Internet resources. A full set of library policies is posted at each branch and on the library systems website. All rules and policies apply equally to wired and wireless systems at the libraries. Wireless printing is not available at this time.

Any user who knowingly violates any of the following policies will lose their computer privileges for a length of time to be determined by the library Branch Manager and/or Library Administrator.

INTERNET SAFETY

1. Access, view, display, print, transmit, or distribute sites or material in violation of Texas laws regarding obscenity, child pornography, and materials harmful to minors as specified in Texas Penal Code §§ 43.22, 43.23, §43.24, or §42.26.
2. Participate in e-mail, chat rooms, or instant messages that use information that is obscene as defined by Texas law (sited above)
3. Disclose, use, or disseminate personal information that could threaten or create a vulnerability for a minor, for any other person, or for the library
4. Attempt to gain unauthorized access to any data, computer, or network
5. Download copyrighted materials of any kind.

USE GUIDELINES

1. Users of the library's Internet connection are required to have a valid Beaumont Public Library card or Internet Users Card. All users will be registered in the library's database of users. All users will read and understand the internet policies and by signing said card(s), agree to all policies regarding acceptable internet use. Any user under the age of 18 must also have a parent/guardian sign for them to be able to use the internet.
2. Each session is limited to 60 minutes per day. The library reserves the right to curtail or extend sessions based on needs.
3. Users wishing to use e-mail must establish their own accounts with one of the free e-mail providers, and may use the library's computers to access their e-mail account. The library's computers may not be used to send threatening, obscene, abusive or harassing messages, or for illegal purposes.
4. Users may not enter chat rooms or use chat/electronic mail and other forms of non-chat electronic communications for purposes inappropriate in a public library setting.

5. The Internet computers cannot be used to access, transmit, upload or download, or distribute material that is pornographic, defamatory, sexually explicit, obscene, or harmful to a minor.
6. Files and bookmarks may not be saved to the hard drive, but can be saved to the patron's USB drive, floppy disk or CD. Although reasonable precautions are taken, the library does not guarantee the hard drives to be virus free. The library assumes no liability for virus infections if patrons save files to their own Flash Drives, disks or CDs.
7. Reasonable care of the computers by the user is expected. Misuse of computers will result in loss of computer privileges. Report any computer malfunctions to the library staff.
8. Library staff may assist the user in accessing the Internet, but cannot provide in-depth assistance and/or training. The same pertains to personal computer use including word processing.
9. There is no charge for internet/computer use; however, the charge is \$.15 for each black and white and \$.50 for each color printed page and must be paid at the time of printing.

Library staff may make exceptions to these requirements in order to accommodate disabled users, or in other special needs situations.

FILTERING POLICY

The Beaumont Public Library System filters internet access at all libraries.

The Children's Internet Protection Act (CIPA), as amended, is a federal law (PL #106-554) that is intended to protect children from access to harmful material without compromising reasonable adult use of Internet services in public libraries. State and federal acts provide that a public library is required to adopt and implement a policy of internet safety for minors, including the operation of a technology protection measure for each computer operated by the public library that allows for access to the Internet by a minor.

Be aware that computer filters can be unreliable and at times sites with legitimate or educational value can be blocked. The unreliability of filters occasionally allows access to sites that are illegal, obscene or sexually explicit, as defined by applicable law. Further, applicable statutes contain exceptions that technology protection measures may not block scientific or medically accurate information regarding sexual assault, sexual abuse, incest, sexually transmitted disease or reproductive health.

PC MANAGEMENT

All public computers are managed by the Envisionware PC Reservation and Printing software. This software controls all processes pertaining to patron usage and printing functionality including making reservations on the computer, keeping time for each session, alerting the patron when time is up, and any printing allowed. Patrons will use their library card or internet card to access the computers. Any attempt to circumvent the controls for the computers will result in loss of privileges for an amount of time as specified by the Branch Manager and/or the Library Administrator.